

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 HONG K 02010 231038Z

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9245

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 2010

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PLEASE PASS TO HABIB

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CH

SUBJECT: MODERATE REGIME STATEMENT ON INTERNAL DEBATE IN HUA

KUO-FENG BANQUET SPEECH

REF: HONG KONG 1822

1. IN THE FIRST PUBLIC STATEMENT BY A POLITBURO MEMBER SINCE  
THE TENG HSIAO-PING EULOGY FOR CHOU-EN-LAI, ACTING PREMIER  
HUA KUO-FENG, IN HIS FEBRUARY 22 BANQUET TOAST TO FORMER PRESI-  
DENT NIXON, GAVE A MODERATE AND ALMOST RELAXED CHARACTERIZA-  
TION OF THE CURRENT IDEOLOGICAL DEBATE GOING ON IN CHINA. HUA  
FURTHER EMPHASIZED THE CONTINUITY OF CHINESE FOREIGN POLICY  
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PAGE 02 HONG K 02010 231038Z

FROM THE DAYS OF HIS PREDECESSOR, SOMETHING WHICH WAS

SYMBOLICALLY EMPHASIZED IN THE FEBRUARY 23 MEETING WITH CHOU EN-LAI'S WIDOW.

2. HUA DESCRIBED THE CURRENT POLITICAL RUMBLINGS AS A "REVOLUTIONARY MASS DEBATE," A FAR CRY FROM THE "ARDUOUS STRUGGLE" IT HAS BEEN CALLED IN MEDIA STATEMENTS PUBLISHED AND BROADCASTS IN CHINA. FURTHER, HUA ASSERTED THAT THIS EXAMPLE OF "DEMOCRACY" IN CHINA WOULD DEEPEN THE UNDERSTANDING OF THE MASSES IN CHAIRMAN MAO'S REVOLUTIONARY LINE, AGAIN A SHARP CONTRAST WITH THE MEDIA LANGUAGE THAT THESE EFFORTS ARE AGAINST ERRONEOUS LINES IN THE PARTY.

3. ON THE QUESTION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HUA'S CONFIDENT ASSERTION THAT MAO'S LINE ON FOREIGN POLICY WOULD CONTINUE INTO THE FUTURE FURTHER EMPHASIZES THE INVIOABILITY OF THE MAO-CHOU INITIATIVE ON THE OPENING TO THE U.S. PRIOR TO HIS MEETING WITH HUA ON FEBRUARY 23, NIXON MET WITH PREMIER CHOU'S WIDOW TENG YING-CHAO IN THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE ACCCOMPANIED BY PRC FOREIGN MINISTER CHIAO KUAN-HUA AND OTHER HIGHRANKING FOREIGN POLICY FIGURES. WHILE THE EVENT WOULD HAVE BEEN LESS SIGNIFICANT IF ANY OF THESE COMPONENT PARTS WERE MISSING, COUPLED TOGETHER THEY SEEM TO OFFER FURTHER SIGNALS FOR CHINESE AUDIENCES THAT HUA IS THE SUCCESSOR TO CHOU AND HIS POLICIES.

4. COMMENT: WE ARE STRUCK BY THE HUA STATEMENT AS AN ATTEMPT BY THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP TO BEGIN TO PUT SOME OFFICIAL TONE TO THE APPARENTLY FREE-WHEELING LANGUAGE USED IN THE STILL TIGHTLY CONTROLLED IDEOLOGICAL CAMPAIGN. WE FEEL THAT HUA'S AFFIRMATION OF THE CAMPAIGN IN POSITIVE TERMS MEANS THAT IT WILL STILL CONTINUE TO UNFOLD, BUT THAT THERE MAY BE SOME FURTHER RESTRICTION OF ITS SCOPE. FOR EXAMPLE, A RECENT ARTICLE IN PEOPLE'S DAILY HAS ARGUED THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO "EXPERIENCE EXCHANGES" JUST A DAY AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE THAT THERE WERE STUDENT GROUPS GOING BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN PEKING AND SHANGHAI UNIVERSITIES. HUA'S ASSERTION OF THE CONTINUITY OF "PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES" LAID DOWN BY MAO IN "FOREIGN AFFAIRS" STRIKES US ALSO AS A STATEMENT THAT PORTRAYS CONFIDENCE ON THE PART OF HUA.

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PAGE 03 HONG K 02010 231038Z

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